

Thank-you for your
help. I sent the proposal
to the Spence and I'm
seeing Barbara Handelman again
tomorrow (I saw her today) for a
few hand-picked guests -

FILM CULTURE NON-PROFIT CORP.

80 WOOSTER STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10012
(212) 226-0010

Jonas Mekas

cordially invites you to attend a special program on

THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

a living lesson in American history
from the Spanish Civil War to the present

Pete Seeger will sing songs of the Lincoln Brigade

Allen Guttman,
Professor of English and American Studies,
Amherst College,
and author of

A Wound in the Heart: America and the Spanish Civil War

will speak on:

"Who Cared About Spain: 1936 to the Present?"

Excerpts from a film-in-progress
on the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
directed by Joseph Lovett and Peter Van Dyke
will be screened.

Where: Preview Theatre
4th Floor
1600 Broadway
Between 48th and 49th Streets
New York City, 10019

When: December 18, 1974
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP to:
Mr. Lovett
(212) 242-8019

This program is being presented to enlist support
for the completion of the film on the Lincoln Brigade.
Please feel free to bring others
who would be interested in the program.

Please contact me
when you're in NYC
and we'll show you
what we have so far -
Thanks again -
JL

1:30 Sunday
Breakfast

13th + 14th

THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

A Film Proposal

By

Joseph Lovett
and Peter van Dyke

212-242-8019

All through our history people have fought to keep American ideals of freedom and democracy alive. For some thirty-five years, wherever Americans have gathered to protect freedom, preserve civil rights, or foster peace, there has been a group of men and women seated under a banner that reads: VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE. It is the name by which Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War have come to be called.

In 1936 democracy in Europe was threatened when General Francisco Franco turned his army against the popularly elected government of Spain. He was armed by the leaders of Germany and Italy: Hitler and Mussolini.

Although the leaders of the United States, England, and France turned their backs on Spain, adopting a non-interventionist stance and denying pleas of aid from the new republic, their people did not: from all over Europe, the United States, and Canada, men and women slipped quietly into Spain to become the international brigades fighting alongside the Republican army.

Some 3,300 men and women came from the United States alone. Most had neither military experience nor the equipment to fight effectively against the highly sophisticated machinery supplied by Hitler and Mussolini. Still they came from all over the United States, from all walks of life.

Though their political views varied, they saw facism as a disease that would spread unless it was stopped in Spain. Their faith in the cause was such that most were convinced their ill-trained men were there only to hold the line until democracies from all over the world rallied to the defense of Republican Spain.

Of the 3,300 Americans who went to Spain, 1,600 were left in Spanish graves. 400 more were killed in World War II. When they returned home, they found new adversaries in HUAC, McCarthy, and scores of other persecutors.

Times were changing. A cold war had begun, and the veterans of the Lincoln Brigade were caught in the crossfire: damaging accusations came from unnamed accusers; jobs were lost and careers ruined; fear of being branded "subversive" hounded the veterans and would hound them, some feared, for the rest of their lives. Most survived; some did not.

But times are always changing. We are now approaching 1976 -- the bicentennial anniversary of the American Revolution, and the fortieth anniversary of Franco's attack on the Spanish Republic. It is a good time to reflect on what a government is capable of doing for its people, and what each citizen is capable of doing for himself and his beliefs.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade offer an important forum for such reflection.

Who were these men and women who entered a foreign war their government chose to avoid?

Where did they come from; where did they go?

People of ideals, surely, people of spirit and courage -- but what sense of responsibility sent them to Spain?

And why, after having been persecuted through the 40's and 50's, have they been virtually forgotten by history, when their story can be such an important lesson for America today?

THE FILM

Over two years ago, we were given a small grant to film the thirty-fifth anniversary reunion-dinner of the Lincoln Brigade. We shot interviews, seminars, photographs, and restored some historic footage. We now wish to incorporate that material into a full-length educational film about these people and their times while the participants are still alive to tell their stories.

The story will be told by the veterans and their families in interviews at their jobs and at home. Rich illustrative material comes from stock footage, newsreels, photographs (both documentary and personal), and from literary and artistic works of the time. The songs of the Lincoln Brigade will be intercut throughout the film.

The Climate of Opinion

The first section, based on historical footage and contemporary newspaper accounts, would evoke a feeling for the Depression in the United States, the debates over workers' rights, representational government, and the possibility of world war. We would see how world events influenced the reaction to the rise of fascism in Germany and Italy, and finally focus on the war in Spain.

Response and Opposition

A variety of people and organizations were involved in sending aid to Spain: unions, schools, farmers, students, doctors, nurses, adventurers, artists. Passions ran high. Money was collected, petitions were circulated in Hollywood, New York, London, Paris. Hemingway, Dos Passos, George Orwell, Picasso, Robert Capa, Nancy Cunard, Robert Motherwell, Lillian Hellman, Langston Hughes -- the war affected their lives and their work for years to come.

The state department's post World War I isolationism, the Catholic Church's support of Franco, and the opinion that sympathy with the Republic was communistic all led to a strangling embargo against Spain.

We would relate this situation -- and trace the methods used to slip through the embargo and into Spain.

The War

The role of Americans in battle, the effect of the war on the Americans at home -- recalled through historical footage, personal letters, family recollection, photographs, literature, art, music, film.

Coming Home

The changing attitude in America as the war in Spain ended, the Second World War erupted, and the Cold War set in. Parties welcomed the veterans home, but the

investigations of the FBI would soon hound them out of jobs. Interviews will indicate that persecution over a long period of time does strong things to people: it can make them all the more steadfast in their beliefs or perhaps make them feel betrayed by a youthful, and costly, idealism.

The Thaw

Cold War detente, political activism in the 60's, a reviving interest in the 30's -- with the result that the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade are being welcomed home once again. Many of them are in their seventies now, and they watch as first hundreds, and then thousands of younger people applaud them as they march beneath their banner.

This film is an American film. The politics of the war in Spain, the nuances of factionalism, the polemic of opinion -- none of these are as important as the story of Americans who took a stand. Why did they do it, what did they win, what did they lose? And what can we learn from them now?

We believe it is imperative the film be finished for the Bicentennial Celebration. For an awakening people, it is a story crying to be remembered, a story that must be called back from history.

Joseph Lovett has worked in the New York film industry for seven years. He has produced and directed two films and has extensive editing credits in documentary and feature films.

Credits include:

Jules Dassin: "The Rehearsal"

NET / Craig Gilbert: "An American Family"

Maysles Bros.: "Gimme Shelter"

Bob Fosse: "Lenny"

Peter Van Dyke began working in films ten years ago, editing hour-long Cinema Verite television documentaries for Robert Drew Associates. Since then, he has worked on all phases of motion picture production as associate producer, cameraman, assistant director, unit manager, and sound man.

Credits include:

Emile de Antonio: "Rush to Judgement"

WNET-TV: "What Harvest for the Reaper," "What Did Your Children Learn Today," "Bill Moyers' Journal," "51st State"

National Geographic: "The Violent Earth"

NPACT: "Uncle Sam Wants You"

Granada TV (England): "Operation Government"

ABC-TV: "Riddle of the Mayan Caves"

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE"

Budget Abstract

Research and location scouting		\$ 6,040
Location		
Production crew salary	\$ 8,800	
Production crew lodging and meals	3,200	
Equipment rental	8,000	
Travel and transportation	<u>4,800</u>	
		24,800
Cost of film and tape		
Film	\$ 15,000	
Tape	<u>9,000</u>	
		24,000
Post location filming expenses		6,700
Editing		13,837
Post editing		6,570
Insurance and legal fees		<u>3,975</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 85,922</u>

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE"

Production Budget

Research and Location Scouting

1. Air travel, including cabs	\$	1,200	
2. Lodging and meals for 18 days of travel @ \$80 per day		1,440	
3. Car rental for 18 days @ \$50 per day		900	
4. Telephone and telegrams		500	
5. Purchase of reference material		400	
6. Salary for two researchers @ \$220 per week		<u>1,600</u>	
	\$	6,040	\$ 6,040

Location (20 day shooting schedule)

Production crew salary

1. Director	(per day)	\$	90	
2. Cameraperson	"		150	
3. Soundperson	"		110	
4. Assistant	"		<u>90</u>	
		\$	440 x 20 =	\$ 8,800

Production crew lodging and meals

1. Meals @ \$20. per person	"	\$	80	
2. Lodging @ \$20 per person	"		<u>80</u>	
		\$	160 x 20 =	\$ 3,200

Camera equipment rental

1. Eclair NPR with four magazines	"	\$	165	
2. Lenses	"		35	
3. Lights and accessories	"		<u>25</u>	
		\$	225 x 20 =	\$ 4,500

Sound equipment rental

1. Nagra 4.2	"	\$	70	
2. Radio microphone	"		50	
3. Microphones	"		40	
4. Accessories	"		<u>15</u>	
		\$	175 x 20 =	\$ 3,500

Automobile rental

1. Two stationwagons @ \$25	"	\$	50	
2. Mileage @ 25¢ per mile for 100 miles per car	"		50	
3. Parking and tolls	"		<u>5</u>	
		\$	105 x 20 =	\$ 2,100

Production crew travel and transportation

1. Air fare to California, Midwestern and Southern states	\$ 2,400	
2. Excess baggage	<u>300</u>	
	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700

Cost of film and tape (per roll -- 400 ft.)

Film (based on 125 rolls)

1. Raw stock purchase	(per roll)	\$ 40	
2. Developing	"	40	
3. Workprint	"	<u>40</u>	
		\$ 120 x 125 =	\$ 15,000

Tape (based on 125 rolls)

1. $\frac{3}{4}$ " tape purchase	"	\$ 4.25	
2. Transfer time to 16mm mag	"	12.50	
3. Purchase of 16mm mag stock	"	27.00	
4. $\frac{1}{4}$ " protection copy	"	4.25	
5. Transcription	"	10.00	
6. Coding picture and track	"	<u>14.00</u>	
		\$ 72.00 x 125 =	\$ 9,000

Post location filming expenses

1. Camera rental for photography of stills for five days @ \$75 per day	\$ 375	
2. Lab fees for preparation of stills	450	
3. Purchasing, processing and printing of motion photography of stills 10 rolls @ \$80 per roll	800	
4. Purchase of rights of 16mm stock footage not in the public domain @ \$6.00 per foot x 15 min.	2,700	
5. Workprint of stock footage	375	
6. Processing of stock footage for integration, optical printing and matching	<u>2,000</u>	
	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700

Editing (12 weeks)

1. Editor salary @ \$565 per week	\$ 6,780	
2. Assistant editor @ \$301 per week	3,612	
3. Steenbeck and editing room @ \$650 per month	1,950	
4. Editing supplies	450	
5. Telephone	350	
6. 5 Interlock screenings @ \$75	375	
7. 2 hr Premix @ \$160 per hour	<u>320</u>	
	\$ 13,837	\$ 13,837

Post editing

1. Sound Mix 14 hours @ \$160 per hour	\$ 2,240
2. Optical track (buy and develop)	1,000
3. Optical effects	800
4. Negative matching	840
5. Titles, photography and printing	440
6. Reversal master	650
7. Answer print	350
8. Release print	<u>250</u>

\$ 6,570

\$ 6,570

Insurance and legal fees

1. Location equipment insurance	\$ 1,000
2. Negative insurance	1,500
3. Legal fees and expenses	775
4. Accounting fees	<u>700</u>

\$ 3,975

\$ 3,975

TOTAL

\$ 85,922